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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/823,217	04/13/2004	Ulrich Demuth	21334-1316	4658
29450	7590	09/13/2005		
BARLEY SNYDER, LLC 1000 WESTLAKES DRIVE, SUITE 275 BERWYN, PA 19312			EXAMINER LEON, EDWIN A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 09/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/823,217

Applicant(s)

DEMUTH, ULRICH

Examiner

Edwin A. León

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 July 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 19-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 17 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed July 8, 2005 in which Claims 1 and 18-19 have been amended, has been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-16 and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by May et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,558,176). With regard to Claim 1, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses an electrical connector arrangement, comprising: a first connector (1) arranged in a housing (2); and an actuation lever (30) arranged on the first connector, the actuation lever having at least one tooth (39) located at a free end, configured to engage a mating connector (2), and movable between a free position in which the first connector and the mating connector are unmated and a coupled position in which the two connectors are fully mated; a portion (Fig. 3) of the actuation lever being disposed between the first connector and the housing, and having thereon a clamping projection

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(lower part of 50, Fig. 3) which, in the coupled position, is in engagement with a mating clamping projection (28) on the housing.

With regard to Claim 2, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses the actuation lever is pivotal relative to the first connector.

With regard to Claim 3, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses the clamping projection protrudes towards the housing.

With regard to Claim 4, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses the mating clamping projection is formed on the housing and protrudes toward the lever.

With regard to Claim 5, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses the clamping projection on the lever is resilient in the direction of the housing and is deflected toward the housing by movement of the actuation lever from the free position into the coupled position.

With regard to Claim 6, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses the resilient clamping projection is formed by a resilient portion (lower part of 50, Fig. 3) of the actuation lever.

With regard to Claim 7, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses the clamping projection on the lever is formed on a resilient portion (50) of the actuation lever.

With regard to Claim 8, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses the resilient portion of the actuation lever is formed by a spring tab (50) cut to protrude out of the lever.

With regard to Claim 9, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses the spring tab includes a clamping projection (lower part of 50, Fig. 3) pointing towards the housing.

With regard to Claim 10, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses the first connector includes a ramp projection (25) that urges the resilient lever region toward the mating

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clamping projection during the movement of the actuation lever from the free position into the coupled position, such that the clamping projection engages the mating clamping projection.

With regard to Claim 11, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses the first connector is a socket connector.

With regard to Claim 12, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses the first connector is a plug connector.

With regard to Claim 13, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses the actuation lever has on each side of the first connector a respective lever part (32) having a respective clamping projection (lower part of 50, Fig. 3), and the housing has at corresponding locations on two mutually opposing inner wall regions a respective mating clamping projection (28).

With regard to Claim 14, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses the first connector has a mating clamping projection (25) on each of two diametrically opposing sides thereof, the actuation lever is constructed as a two-armed lever having a respective lever arm (33) on each of the two diametrically opposing sides of the first connector, and the lever arms each having a clamping projection (50) positioned to engage the respective mating clamping projection.

With regard to Claim 15, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses the clamping projections of each lever arm comprise a deflectable spring tab (50) cut to protrude from the lever arm with a clamping projection (52) on the spring tab.

With regard to Claim 16, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses the actuation lever is constructed to be approximately U-shaped and has two limbs (33) of this U-shape which each form one of the two lever arms, each of the limbs connected to a handle portion (31) and terminating in a free end (36).

With regard to Claim 19, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses an actuation lever (30) constructed to be mounted on a connector (1) arranged in a housing (2), the actuation lever being movable between a free position and a coupled position to move the connector into and out of an electrical connection with a mating connector (2), the actuation lever having a clamping projection (lower part of 50, Fig. 3) disposed to be positioned between the connector and the housing and a latching tip (52) extending opposite the clamping projection, the clamping projection being configured to engage a mating clamping projection (28) on the housing opposite the clamping projection when the actuation lever is in the coupled position.

With regard to Claim 20, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses the clamping projection on the lever is formed by a portion (Fig. 3) of the lever region which protrudes towards the surrounding housing when the actuation lever is arranged on the connector.

With regard to Claim 21, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses the clamping projection on the lever is formed on a lever portion (33), which is resilient in the direction of the housing when the actuation lever is arranged on the connector.

With regard to Claim 22, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses the resilient lever portion is formed by a spring tab (50) cut to protrude out of the lever.

With regard to Claim 23, May et al. (Figs. 1-3) discloses a clamping projection (52) extending toward the housing provided on the spring tab.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 17-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims for the reasons stated in the Office Action of April 20, 2005.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16 and 19-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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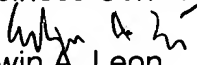
TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Edwin A. Leon

AU 2833

EAL

September 4, 2005


HUONG T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER